



**Kingston Conservation Advisory Council
Monthly Meeting Minutes
Kingston City Hall, Date: June 14, 2016
6:30-8:30pm**

Council Members Elizabeth Broad, Lorraine Farina, Emilie Hauser (Vice-Chair), Lynn Johnson, Kevin McEvoy (Secretary), Julie Noble (Chair), Casey Schwarz

Guests: Gary Pennock

- I. **Welcome Guests and Public Comment:** The Chair called the meeting to order at 6:40PM. Gary distributed a printout of an email regarding the right to clean water, self-government and the rights of nature.
- II. **Review and Approval May 2016 Meeting Minutes and March Joint CAC/Tree Commission minutes:** Upon motion by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the minutes to the May meeting as amended were unanimously approved by the council members present. The minutes to the March 31 joint CAC and Tree Commission meeting were accepted without objection by unanimous acclamation.
- III. **Old Business**
 1. **Natural Resources Inventory**
 - i. **Next steps for hiring consultant:** Emilie, Kevin and Krista Micelli (CAC NRI Intern) submitted comments on Julie's initial draft which was changed to a draft Request for Responses. According to the City purchasing agent, evaluation criteria need to be reconsidered in the document. The solicitation may have to be a Request for Proposal. Differences between Request for Responses, Request for Quotes and Request for Proposals were discussed. It is expected that the scope of work will include an Open Space Index.
 - ii. **HREP 2016 grant application:** Julie proposed that the CAC apply through the City for a Hudson River Estuary Program Stewardship Planning Grant for an Open Space Plan.
 2. **Irish Cultural Center Hudson Valley review:** Emilie reported out on the contents of the Environmental Assessment Form (EAF). The CAC, listed as an interested agency, consented to the Planning Board designation of lead agency. Casey will review the EAF and draft comments for the CAC to submit as an action item. Some items to consider with regards to the project may include: (a) other community groups wanting to use the center thereby increasing the hours the center may be in use; (b) noise and parking issues which may have to be addressed through zoning; (c) solar array in adjacent parking area and a green roof on the ICC Kevin remains recused on the matter.
- IV. **New Business**
 1. **CFA Grant Applications:** Julie reviewed some Consolidated Funding Application (CFA) grant possibilities due 7-29-16.
 - a. **Climate Smart Communities Applications:**
 1. **Climate Smart Communities Implementation:** Possibilities include funding requests for: (i) Greenline trail heads proposed at Livingston & Delaware (Ward 4 Memorial) as well as at Murray St.; (ii) Broadway projects; (iii) Esopus Creek Levee recertification

which could be done through Levee Assessment Mapping Process (LAMP) funding. Link to FEMA LAMP resources:

<https://www.fema.gov/fema-levee-resources-library>

2. **Climate Smart Communities Certification:** Possibilities include funding requests for: “right sizing” the City fleet including buying two electric vehicles as a match for such grant, hiring a fleet manager and updating the Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions inventory.
 - b. **Other CFA Grant Possibilities:** Other CFA possibilities discussed included Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV funding) through Department of Environmental Conservation, Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) grants and Department of State (DOS) grant for Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) implementation for either Hudson Riverport or Planning for Rising Waters.
2. **Zoning Code Update review:** Updated City zoning code is being written by consultants as a follow up to the Comprehensive Plan process. The Zoning Committee is next meeting on June 23. Climate Smart Kingston Commission will be making comments on items within scope of the Climate Action Plan. CAC took no action but will review comments.

V. Announcements/Communications/Events

a. **Sea Level Rise:** Emilie discussed a June 21 webinar on conservation strategies for climate change resilience and a wetland response model. Key wetland adaptation strategies include protecting the wetland pathway, managing and restoring existing wetlands so they are better able to adapt, and using planning, policy, and regulation. Link is below:

<https://www.hrnerr.org/estuary-training/trainingtopic/climate-adaptive-conservation-strategies/>

b. **Indian Point Film Screening:** Betta announced a screening on June 26 of Ivy Meeropol’s award winning documentary at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck to benefit the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater.

c. **Creek Week:** Event is scheduled to be held Sept 20-24.

d. **Electric Vehicle charging station:** Emilie presented a brochure on county locations, put together by UC Dept of Environment.

e. **National Drive Electric Week:** Betta reported on the Climate Smart Kingston Commission committee working on the Sept 17 event.

f. **Urban Foraging & Forestry:** Kevin reported on the June 8th USDA webinar. Link follows: <http://www.fs.fed.us/research/urban-webinars/food-foraging/>

VI. Reports/Updates

1. **Wood Burning/Air Quality Committee** (Lorraine Farina): Lorraine reported on her meeting with City Assistant Corporation Counsel Dan Gartenstein regarding Section 135 and enforcement. She reported that he indicated that there is no problem with the law and no changes are needed, however the City does not have the equipment to determine specific quantities of smoke are being emitted. Counsel would like to encourage voluntary compliance through notice to violators. It was mentioned that Joe Safford at Building Safety had indicated he could assist with public outreach and education in the fall. The CAC could create an educational campaign in partnership with Building Safety on wood burning. Lorraine can review other communities approach to wood burning education and will reach out to Joe Safford.
2. **Kingston Sidewalk Task Force** (Lorraine Farina): Lorraine submitted notes from the May meeting. Gabrielle Weiss (Landscape architect/interm) revised the proposed sidewalk guidelines. Discussion included funding mechanisms for implementing the

sidewalk guidelines and enforcement possibilities. Ithaca was used as a model. Gabrielle will draw up three maintenance sections: a. The status quo; b. Proposed voluntary participation; c. Ithaca model. Next steps for the Taskforce are to bring these maintenance options along with standards revisions to the Mayor and department heads then to a Complete Streets meeting and finally to the Common Council.

3. **Planning Board Liaison** (Casey Schwarz): Irish Cultural Center was on the agenda (see above under old business).
4. **Public Safety Liaison** (Lynn Johnson): Lynn reported to the committee on wood burning research and discussions at CAC.
5. **Climate Smart Kingston** (Julie Noble): The zoning code initiative mentioned above under New Business and work being done on Greenhouse Gas emissions inventory was discussed.
6. **Ulster County Climate Smart Committee** (Betta Broad): Betta reported on energy improvements at the County Building and Law Enforcement Center and that an Energize NY and PACE financing presentation will be held at Ulster County Community College in September or October.
7. **Ulster County Environmental Management Council Liaison** (Emilie Hauser): Emilie provided an update on Styrofoam (Ulster County's Food Service Waste Reduction Act, Local Law Number 12 of 2014) indicating that an explanatory brochure is available now. It was discussed by the Council that chain food stores in the greater Kingston area are largely compliant. The EMC also discussed solar zoning and the NYS Clean Energy Standard meetings and Public Service Commission hearings held in May. Link to the White Paper on the Clean Energy Standard dated 1-25-16 can be found here:
<http://www3.dps.ny.gov/W/PSCWeb.nsf/All/C12C0A18F55877E785257E6F005D533E?OpenDocument>
Link to the Ulster County Styrofoam brochure:
<http://ulstercountyny.gov/sites/default/files/DOH%20Polystyrene%20Brochure%20070915.pdf>
8. **Solid Waste Management Improvement Commission** (Julie Noble): The Commission is meeting weekly evaluating options concerning solid waste management.
9. **Kingston's Environmental Program** (Julie Noble): Openings for the Summer Junior Naturalist program are still available.
10. **Sea Level Rise Implementation Learning Group** (Julie Noble): Contracts are in progress on this matter.

VI. **Adjournment:** Upon motion duly made by Casey and seconded by Lynn, the council unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:58PM.

NOTE THAT ALL WEBSITE LINKS ARE FOR GENERAL REFERENCE AND THAT THE CAC MAKES NO REPRESENTATIONS REGARDING SAME.

Mission: Ensure the conservation of the City of Kingston's natural resources and the enhancement and protection of its environment while fostering unified action on environmental matters.